

Excerpt of an email from Sarah's aunt Snaige Sileika:

From: **Snaige Sileika**

Sarah was my bad-assed niece and I loved her.

She was a traveller and a musician. She had friends in every single city in this country - although she called British Columbia her home.

At the end of July Sarah decided to come to Toronto to work with Safe Injection sites and be part of a Peer Outreach Program for high risk kids. When I found out from Gint that she was in town I texted her through Facebook to invite her for dinner. She said that she had to busk for a few hours before coming to our place. I offered to pick her up and made my way towards our local LCBO where Sarah was playing. Walking down the street towards her I saw her sitting on the sidewalk with her guitar. Her sign read "A little helps a lot".

That evening Antanas, Sarah and I had a wonderful time talking about her job interview that she had gone to that day. She was engaged, articulate, funny. Even Antanas - who had work to do that evening and had planned to go to his study after dinner - stayed with us to keep chatting with her.

Sarah passed away from a Fentanyl overdose on Monday, August 27th in Toronto at a punk house called The Arcade.

Sarah's mom Karen and her sister Rena flew in from Nelson, BC. on Tuesday - and for the next few days we basically clung to each other and wept. We kept hoping that someone would call us and tell us that this was all a mistake - that Sarah was still alive.

But reality pushes forward and a funeral needed to be arranged. Through some of Sarah's friends we reached out to her community of street kids and invited them to join us in honouring Sarah.

And they all came - with their tattoos, their piercings, their dreadlocks and their dogs. Some of them were barefoot. After the memorial service at the funeral home Karen rented a venue nearby so that all of the street kids could gather with us. We asked them to bring their instruments and after we all ate lunch together the kids with banjos and the guitars started playing. Everyone was in tears. We sat for hours listening to their amazing music.

.